



The Facts about Medicare-Approved Drug Discount Cards

MEDICARE MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003

Good news...a new law gives people with Medicare the power to start saving on prescription drugs right now. Medicare is contracting with private companies to offer Medicare-approved drug discount cards. You can choose one of the discount cards offered by these private companies, to help you save on outpatient prescription drugs. All discount cards approved by Medicare will have this seal:



Better news...if you have a lower income that makes it hard to pay for your prescription drugs, you might get extra help. If in 2005 your monthly income is

- no more than \$1,077 for a single person, or
- no more than \$1,444 for a married couple

you might qualify for a \$600 credit on the Medicare-approved drug discount card you choose. You can use that credit right away to help pay for your prescription drugs.

Whether you qualify for the \$600 credit will depend on whether you meet the income limits shown above and whether you already receive outpatient prescription drug coverage from certain other sources. Even if your income is higher, you can still choose a Medicare-approved drug discount card to save money.

Note: If you live in Alaska or Hawaii, income limits are different.

Do I have to enroll in a Medicare-approved drug discount card?

No, these discount cards are voluntary. That means enrolling is your choice. If you want to enroll, contact the company offering the card you choose.

To get help comparing your options and to find out more about how to enroll:

- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) and ask about “drug savings.” TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
- Visit www.medicare.gov on the web. Select “Search Tools” at the top the page.



Who can get one of these discount cards?

Almost anyone with Medicare can get a discount card. The only people who aren't eligible are those who have outpatient prescription drug coverage through Medicaid when they apply.

When can I apply for the \$600 credit to help pay for prescriptions?

The amount of credit will depend on when the company receives your enrollment form for a Medicare-approved drug discount card. The chart below shows how much you will get depending on when the company receives your enrollment form.

If the company receives your enrollment form between	You will get
July 1 - September 30, 2005	\$300 credit
October 1 - December 31, 2005	\$150 credit

To make sure your enrollment form is received in time, you can also apply for the discount card and \$600 credit at www.medicare.gov or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Is there only one Medicare-approved drug discount card I can get?

No. A choice of more than one discount card is available. Medicare can help you compare your options before you choose a card. Private companies might also send you information about the Medicare-approved drug discount card they are offering. You can only enroll in one Medicare-approved drug discount card each calendar year. If you are a member of a Medicare managed care plan, contact your plan about discount card options for members.

How much does it cost to enroll?

Usually, you need to pay an annual enrollment fee of no more than \$30. You don't pay any enrollment fee if you qualify for the \$600 credit.

What happens to my Medicare-approved drug discount card and any credit I have left when I sign up for a Medicare prescription drug plan?

You can continue to use your Medicare-approved drug discount card and your credit until May 15, 2006, or until you join a Medicare prescription drug plan, whichever is first. Once you have a Medicare prescription drug plan, you can't use your Medicare-approved drug discount card or any credit you have left. You will get coverage for prescription drugs through the Medicare prescription drug plan instead of saving with the discount card.